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# THE AFRICAN REPOSITORY,

AND

## COLONIAL JOURNAL.

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It becomes our painful duty to announce to our readers the death of our beloved Governor THOMAS BUCHANAN. When the intelligence first reached us in so questionable a shape, we most earnestly hoped that it was not true. But since that we have received the following copy of a letter from Capt. WILLIAM PRESTON of our schooner Regulus, now on the coast of Africa which we lay before our readers:

SIERRA LEONE, SEPTEMBER 29, 1841.

DEAR BROTHER,—I embrace a hasty opportunity as the vessel is now getting under way for Gambia, where there are a number of vessels for Salem, to write a few lines. I have been very sick with the country fever and hope the worst is past, though I am now most too weak to write. I hope I shall soon be acclimated, every one has this fever who has to be exposed as I do, even in the intervals of fever I go on shore on business. I arrived out July 23. 25th, sailed for Junk river and Bassa Cove, arrived at latter place August 1st. I had Governor BUCHANAN on board with me. We were both taken sick at Bassa. I, through the mercy of God, am partially recovered. The Governor died September 3d,—perhaps this will be the first news in the country. THOMAS BUCHANAN, Governor of Liberia, one of the best of men, very much lamented. I hope soon to have another chance, when I will write more fully. Give my love to all friends, and I remain.

Your affectionate brother,

WILLIAM.

To Mr. ALFRED PRESTON, Gloucester, Mass.

This letter contains all that we know of this melancholy event. We have had no other intelligence from the Colony since July. We suppose the Captain did not think of writing us by such a round about way, hoping soon to have an opportunity of communicating to us direct.

This intelligence however comes in such a manner that it leaves us little ground to hope that it is not true. We cannot express to our readers in what deep affliction we are. It touches all the tenderest sensibilities of our souls. He was a great and a good man. His life was filled up with usefulness of the highest order and in the most noble and important sphere. His death is a public bereavement. How wonderful—how be-

yond our comprehension are the ways of the Almighty!—"clouds and darkness are round about his throne." And yet judgment and truth are the foundation of all his administrations. This event has been brought about at this time and in this manner through his wisdom and in the exercise of his goodness. The cause of Colonization is under his divine control. He sees the end from the beginning. And though we cannot see how we can carry it on without the aid of Gov. BUCHANAN, He sees and knows how even the death of this good man shall be made to advance its interests. And we feel called upon to redouble our diligence and zeal in that cause for which he gave his life.

Since the preceding was in type, the "Atalanta" has arrived at New York from Monrovia, which port she left on the 11th of October, up to which date we have copious despatches from the Colony. Gen. J. J. ROBERTS, the Lieutenant Governor, had by virtue of his office, assumed the discharge of the duties of Governor. We give the following extracts from his official communication to the Executive Committee:

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, }  
MONROVIA, 7TH OCTOBER, 1841. }

SIR:—It becomes my painful duty to announce to you the death of our beloved and excellent Governor, THOMAS BUCHANAN. Governor BUCHANAN is no more. He died at the Government House, Bassa Cove, on the 3rd September, after an illness of some eight or ten days.

No sooner had the Society's vessel arrived (23rd July,) than Governor BUCHANAN determined to visit the leeward settlements, and on the afternoon of the 24th he departed, in apparent good health, on board the schooner *Regulus*, for Marshall, where he arrived the following day. Immediately after his arrival at that place, he was attacked with fever, which continued at intervals for several days. He unfortunately left this place without taking with him quinine, nor could any be procured at Marshall. He determined, nevertheless, to continue his voyage, and on the 31st, in attempting to reach the schooner, was much exposed to rain—was thoroughly drenched in the surf, which brought on another paroxysm of fever with redoubled violence. During the passage to Bassa Cove he suffered very much from sea sickness, which, added to the fever, made him very uncomfortable.

He arrived at Bassa on the morning of the 1st of August, and was confined to his bed until the 7th, when he again found himself convalescent. He immediately commenced the discharge of his various duties which he found exceedingly arduous, and, notwithstanding his late illness, he persisted in a course of unwarrantable zeal, which soon prostrated him again. After a few days relaxation he partially recovered, and again resumed his duties—it was too much for his shattered constitution; he sank under it, and alas! he is gone.

The death of Governor BUCHANAN has cast a gloom over Liberia—the Commonwealth deeply mourn his loss. He was a man in all respects calculated to take care of the interests of this infant Republic, and that his place can be easily supplied, is doubtful. In the administration of his government he was firm and decided, dealing justice to all without partiality to any. I who was intimate with Governor BUCHANAN and acquainted with every branch of his administration know, that if he erred it was of

the head and not of the heart. Strict justice and integrity actuated him in all his dealings with men. I make no attempt to expatiate on the excellent qualities of Governor BUCHANAN, his character is too well established.

The following is an extract of a letter to me from Rev. FRANCIS BURNS, who visited him frequently during his illness, and conversed with him on the subject of religion, just a day or two before his death:—

“Two day’s before his death I visited him when he was evidently past recovery. I found him just recovering from one of those paroxysms of vomiting to which he was constantly liable after taking medicine or nourishment. He at the moment was extremely weak. His eyes were deeply sunk in the socket, his features composed and tranquil.

“As I approached the foot of his bed, he reached out his hand and invited me to sit down. I conversed with him at intervals upon such subjects as he thought proper to introduce for near half an hour. He seemed very sensible of the attentions bestowed on him either by attendants or visitors, and spoke of them with evident emotions of gratitude. and concern, thinking they might be too deeply concerned about the issue of the disorder; whereas to him, he said, it was a matter of little consequence.

“On my remarking to him that I hoped in this trying hour he had the consolations of religion? he replied with a smile, ‘O yes!! Mr. BURNS, I humbly trust I have, I am but a poor unworthy creature at best; but I should feel a great deal more were it not for that.’ I added do you feel its support? his answer was, ‘Yes—but for it I know not how I should have stood it through the tiresome days and nights of sickness.’”

Some additional particulars, with some matters of general interest will be found in the following extracts from a communication from J. Lawrence Day M. D. Colonial Physician.

Gov’t. House, in mourning.

Hon. S. WILKESON,

Monrovia, 7 Oct. 18 41.

Dear Sir:—You will have learned from the despatches of Gov.rGen. ROBERTS the melancholy truth that our much loved, respected and greatly useful Gov. BUCHANAN is indeed no more.

After the arrival of the long looked and prayed for schooner he lost no time in putting her actively in his service. The day she arrived he was endeavoring to get a passage in an English vessel to Bassa. The Captain did not want to stop there. The *Regulus* arrived 23d July, the evening of the 24th he was on board and sailed next morning for the leeward settlements. When we bade him a temporary farewell on the schooner’s deck, little did we imagine it was the last. But alas the rod has fallen and my next call was to look, not upon his pale and death struck countenance, not upon his lifeless remains, but to look upon his *grave* and weep.

All that remains of him except the glory of his benevolent and devoted career lies entombed in the Government grounds at Bassa beneath some stately trees shading the House built by him five or six years ago. While the green turf flourishes, and the south sea breezes spread the perfumes of flowers planted on the spot sacred to his ashes may his memory abide in the heart of every Liberian, and his praises diffuse a sacred love for his name in the bosom of every colored man to whose cause he was so wholly and ardently devoted.

Bound as he was to his motherland by ties that bind a son to a much loved and widowed mother, and half orphan sisters and brother, he thought the sacrifice too great to forsake all for the love of the cause in which he was engaged.



What was his self dedication to the glorious work of fostering the germ of Africa's redemption—we learn from a scrap of his, penned on his first voyage to this country in Dec. 1835. “The God who tempers the wind to the shorn Lamb, can also temper the rays of a tropical sun to a northern constitution. *But though he slay me yet will I trust in him The work is his to which I go, and is worthy of all sacrifice.*

To his public character the Journals of the day have rendered a measure of praise.

Those only who knew him best know the depth of his kindness, the worth of his friendship, and the ardor of his attachments. I need not speak further of him, history will do him honor past all my ephemeral praise.

I did not see him during his illness by reason on my part of the impossibility of getting to him in time—and on his part by reason of his sending the schooner, which was at Bassa Cove unemployed at the time for me.

He was probably influenced by one or all of the following reasons: 1st. He never was in the habit of consulting me or any other Physician when at home. 2nd. He did not think his case dangerous. 3d. He more likely supposed my services were more needed here than with him, when he went away not less than 25 or 30 of the new emigrants were sick. At the time I did go, only one or two were sick, one of whom died during my absence.

The following letter was addressed to the Colonial Secretary informing him of the death of Gov. BUCHANAN.

BASSA COVE, 3rd September, 1841

To the Honorable John N. Lewis:

SIR: To you as the organ of general communication throughout the Commonwealth it is our painful duty to communicate the sad tidings of the death of our truly venerated Governor. He died about half past six o'clock this morning without a struggle or a groan. You who have been attached to his person and associated with him in business who have known him in the battle field and heard him in the council chamber; who have felt the concern he felt for the welfare of Africa generally and these colonies in particular, you can tell to his biographer and the world the loss we have sustained by his death.

A loss the more deeply to be deplored for the difficulty of repairing.

Impelled by a commanding principle of duty he prosecuted his labors to the last without wavering or compromise.

In Governor BUCHANAN to great energy of character was united a firmness of heart.

He knew how to sympathise with suffering, encourage industry and assist indigence. His mind was formed for friendship and he has the secret of so accommodating himself to the various orders of intellect as to make that friendship a favour to all that enjoyed it.

But the jewel within him was too powerful for its Casket. Worn out to exhaustion he availed himself of the opportunity which the arrival of the schooner *Regulus* afforded him of visiting this place that he might unite with the little recreation and benefit to his health which the change of air and scene might give him the opportunity of superintending the works going on here and expedite the discharge of the vessel.

Causes beyond his control contributed to a longer stay than was anticipated until he was taken sick and died.

We add nothing more, but sincerely hope that abilities so singularly and happily combined in our late chief magistrate and which so eminently qualified him for the office he filled may be found in his successor.

WILLIAM L. WEAVER,  
NATHANIEL HARRIS,  
JOHN DAY,  
LOUIS SHERIDAN.

AGENCY HOUSE, 3rd September, 1841.

To General Jos. J. ROBERTS, MONROVIA.

SIR :—The afflictive and mournful dispensation by which we have been bereaved of our late chief magistrate, places you in such a position to us and the Commonwealth of Liberia as to compel us to throw ourselves with all our weight of public cares upon you.

As under the guidance and teaching of your illustrious predecessor we have had inculcated upon us lessons of political economy and principles of republican Liberty, permit us to hope that being favoured with the blessing of Heaven you will be governed by the same imperishable principles and to a similar end. How deeply we condole with you in the almost irreparable loss we have sustained need not here be stated ; but be assured of our co-operation in every emergency, of our prayer for the success of all your undertakings, and that our public affliction may be sanctified to the public good.

WM. L. WEAVER,  
NATHANIEL HARRIS,  
JOHN DAY,  
LOUIS SHERIDAN.

The following was the order of arrangements at the funeral of Gov. BUCHANAN at Bassa Cove.

According to request, the Gentlemen invited assembled at the Government House, where after due deliberation it was decided that the funeral obsequies of the late Governor BUCHANAN should be performed under the direction of Col. W. L. WEAVER to-morrow at 12 o'clock and that the body of the deceased be interred with military honors in the grove adjacent to the Government House built under his direction in Bassa Cove.

Order of the Procession.

1. Military Escort, W. L. WEAVER, commanding.
2. Militia.
3. Sheriffs, Physicians and Clergy.
4. Bearers, Corps, Pall Bearers.
5. Heads of Departments.
6. Citizens.

The procession will move off at the hour of 12 o'clock. March down Atlantic Street up Ashmun Street as far as the corner of Bell Street, then down Bell Street, and then up Atlantic Street to the place of interment. Half hour guns to be fired from sunrise to sun set.

The following funeral ceremonies took place in Monrovia on the 10th September :—

ORDER OF PROCESSION.—We the Committee appointed by His Honor the Lieut. Governor and Council, to whom was referred the business to make arrangements for the public expression of our feeling at our late bereavement, in the lamented death of His Excellency, Governor THOMAS BUCHANAN, beg leave to report the following :—

1. That the Government House be put in mourning on Friday morning, (10th instant) and to remain thus 30 days.

2. That the coffin be made, and trimmed with black crape and gold lace : —to be placed at the Government House on Wednesday, (8th inst.) and to remain there till Friday morning.

3. At 6 o'clock A. M. on the day above mentioned, the flags of the Colony, as well as the United States flag, at the Government House, will be half masted and furled with black crape, at which time a gun will be fired, and continued at intervals of a half hour.

4. The civil officers and citizens generally, be requested to assemble at the Government House, at the hour of 9 o'clock A. M. of the above named day.

5. The different military corps, will parade in front of the Government House on Friday 10, inst., at the hour of 10 o'clock A. M.

The procession will be formed as follows :—First the military—next the clergy—next the coffin supported by 6 officers as pall bearers,\*—next His Honor the Lieut. Governor and Colonial Secretary—next the Colonial Legislature—next the Physician and Orator—next the Judges of the different Courts, and then the Citizens and strangers.

6. The procession, when formed will move up to, and around Chaver's corner—thence to the corner of the Presbyterian Church—thence down Broad Street, to Clark's corner—thence to the M. E. Church, where a sermon will be delivered. After the ceremony is over in the Church, the procession will resume its order and proceed to the Government Square, where the coffin will be interred.

The civil and military officers, are requested to wear crape on the left arm 30 days

The different associations of the Colony, are also requested to wear their distinctive badges on that day.

All foreign as well as colonial vessels, are requested to half mast their flags on that day

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.—H. TEAGE, M. C., D. JOHNSTON, M. C., L. CIPLES, M. C., Major N. M. HICKS, Major B. P. YATES, SEPTEMBER 6th, 1841.

COLONIZATION ROOMS, }  
WASHINGTON, 13th December, 1841. }

At a meeting of the Executive Committee, and several members of the Board of Directors of the American Colonization Society now in the city, held this evening, the late despatches of Lieut. Governor, General J. J. ROBERTS, detailing the circumstances of the death of the late THOMAS BUCHANAN, Governor of the Commonwealth of Liberia, having been read, the following preamble and resolutions were passed unanimously, viz :

Whereas God in the wise administration of his government, has seen fit to remove by death the late THOMAS BUCHANAN, Governor of the Commonwealth of Liberia, in whom centred the hopes of the friends of Colonization in this country, and the expectation and confidence of the citizens of Liberia, and has thus left a nation and a race, to mourn his loss, therefore,

\*Majors J. W. PROUT, and N. M. HICKS,—Captains R. WHITE, D. WHITE, D. MOORE, and D. P. BROWN, were selected as pall bearers on the above mentioned occasion.



*Resolved*, That with humility and reverence we acknowledge the hand of an all wise and over-ruling God, in this afflicting dispensation.

*Resolved*, That we sincerely condole with the afflicted mother and relatives of our late Governor; and that as a testimony of our sympathy and sorrow, we will wear crape on the left arm for the space of thirty days.

*Resolved*, That we deeply sympathise with the citizens of Liberia in the loss which they have sustained, and we commend them to the protection and kind care of him who tempers the wind to the shorn lamb, and will not forsake any who put their trust in him.

*Resolved*, That we feel called upon to redouble our diligence and zeal in the prosecution of that noble cause for the promotion of which Governor BUCHANAN gave his valuable life.

*Resolved*, That we assure the American public of the great confidence which we repose in the Lieutenant Governor, Gen. J. J. ROBERTS, on whom the administration of the Government of the Commonwealth devolves, for the time being, and that we trust the Colony will steadily advance in prosperity, industry, and general improvement.

*Resolved*, That the Rev. GEORGE W. BETHUNE, D. D., of Philadelphia, be requested to deliver a funeral discourse on the death of Governor BUCHANAN, at the annual meeting of the American Colonization Society, on the 18th proximo.

*Resolved*, That it be recommended to all the clergy friendly to the scheme of Colonization, to preach a sermon with reference to the death of Governor BUCHANAN, on Sabbath the 23d January, and take up a collection in aid of the cause to which he was so much devoted.

*Resolved*, That a copy of these proceedings be transmitted to the friends of the late Governor BUCHANAN, and that they be sent to the Colony for insertion in their papers, and also that they be published in the various papers of this country.

A TRUE COPY,

WM. McLAIN, *Secretary, Ex. Com.*

#### ANNUAL MEETING.

THE next annual meeting of the American Colonization Society will be held in the city of Washington on the 3rd Tuesday of January 1842, being the 18th day of the month.

It is hoped that the delegates from all the different Societies will be punctual in their attendance. Business of vast importance will be brought before them. The important interests of the great scheme of Colonization are substantially under their control and dependent on their wise deliberations.

#### MISSIONARIES FOR WESTERN AFRICA.

THE Rev. WILLIAM WALKER and wife and the Rev. BENJAMIN GRISWOLD, received their instructions as Missionaries to Western Africa at the Essex street church in Boston, on sabbath evening the 28th ult. The Rev. Dr. ANDERSON read the instructions of the Prudential Committee. The meeting was one of deep and solemn interest. The Missionaries are destined to Cape Palmas and are expected to sail about this time.

We hope their lives may be long spared in that land of darkness and death. Their help is greatly needed. May the Lord of the harvest protect and bless them

WE have delayed the present number of the Repository a few days, in order to insert in it the important particulars respecting the death of his Excellency, THOMAS BUCHANAN, which reached us just as the paper was going to press. Our readers will not find fault with us for this delay, for though it brings to them melancholy intelligence, it also brings all the circumstances which we have received.

#### CONCLUSION.

IN offering to our readers the last number of our journal for the year 1841, we cannot refrain from expressing to them our sincere gratitude for the kindly manner in which they have welcomed our semi-monthly publication. We have received many tokens of their approbation. Often amid the toils and anxieties which have encompassed us on every hand, our spirit has been cheered by some assurance of their sympathy or some word of encouragement. For all such attentions we are truly grateful. We shall remember them with delight as some of the green spots which have adorned our journey through life.

We trust our labors have not been entirely in vain. The cause which it has been our privilege to advocate is worthy of an abler pen. Sincerer devotion and better intentions, it could not have. If we have not accomplished all that was desirable, or expected of us, it has been for want of ability and not through any obliquity of intention or indifference and sloth in the performance.

To our numerous friends we wish a happy closing of the year. And while they are selecting and making presents to their acquaintances and kindred, we entreat them also to remember the wants of colonization,—to feel for those who are drawn unto death and ready to be slain: and to send by their contributions joy and gladness, life and salvation to thousands of the wretched and forlorn sons and daughters of Africa. Here your noblest powers may find scope for exercise. Here you may scatter seed which shall yield an everlasting harvest.

In many respects the past year has been a very eventful one for the cause of Colonization. The unexampled scarcity of money which has prevailed all over the country, has not been without its effects on the receipts of this Society. The expenses attending the support of the Colony have been large, owing to the fact that we have been under the necessity of purchasing more territory in order to preserve a continuous line of coast between our different settlements, which was indispensable to our continued welfare and prosperity.

And last, though not least, the death of Gov. BUCHANAN is an event unlike what has been recorded in the history of any year since that which told of the death of ASHMUN.

The smile and blessing of Heaven has been upon the cause in a distinguished manner, for which we desire to send up our sincere gratitude. Without this we should have suffered shipwreck and loss of all that is valuable in this great enterprise. We look to our Heavenly Father for guidance and favor in the future, while we consecrate to him for this service our time and talents.



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